



Education Watch

Enhancing Flexibility & Accountability ■ Leaving No Child Behind

U.S. House Education & the Workforce Committee ■ John Boehner, Chairman
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House Education Leaders Set to Introduce H.R. 1 Today

The House Education & the Workforce Committee will introduce H.R. 1, the *No Child Left Behind* Act, today. The bill will closely track President George W. Bush's key priorities of flexibility, accountability, and choice to help close the achievement gap between disadvantaged students and their peers.

Flexibility is a key component of the President's plan. The bill gives states and local schools additional flexibility by streamlining and consolidating programs and granting greater flexibility and decision-making authority to state and local officials.

Moreover, it provides additional flexibility by authorizing states and school districts to transfer funds between programs. Finally, the bill gives states the flexibility to use NAEP (the National Assessment of Educational Progress) *or another assessment selected by the state* that meets widely recognized professional and technical standards.

States have become the laboratories of education innovation. H.R. 1 gives them the freedom and flexibility they need to implement innovative education reform plans that have proven successful in improving student achievement.

Message of the Day

H.R. 1 gives students a chance, parents a choice, and schools a charge to be the best in the world.

- ❑ *The thicket of federal education programs perpetuates bureaucracy at the state and local level.*
- ❑ *Paperwork mandates and regulations force states and local school districts to sacrifice student achievement to comply with bureaucracy.*
- ❑ *Giving state and local officials additional flexibility helps them tailor programs to more closely meet students' unique needs and priorities.*

DAILY EDUCATION FACTS

- There are more than 60 programs under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) -- so many that few people can agree as to exactly how many exist.
- Few of these programs have ever been evaluated and demonstrated to have improved student achievement, and many of them are duplicative or fund activities that are not based on scientific research.
- H.R. 1 streamlines the myriad programs and ties federal dollars to accountability for performance in order to get more dollars to school districts, and to ensure that funds are used effectively.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"We need to bring to federal education programs many of the strategies that have worked so well at the state and local levels: increased accountability for student performance, a focus on research-based practices, reduced bureaucracy and greater flexibility, and better information to empower parents." **Secretary of Education Rod Paige, March 7, 2001, testimony before the House Education & the Workforce Committee**